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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE BROOKS AIR FORCE BASE TEXAS

24 Feb 95

MEMORANDUM FOR 3 CES/CEVR

ATTN: Ms. Sharon Stone 22040 Maple Street

Elmendorf AFB AK 99506-3240

FROM: HQ AFCEE/ERT

8001 Arnold Drive

Brooks AFB TX 78235-5357

SUBJECT: Completion of One-Year Bioventing Test, Elmendorf AFB, ST 43/55 Valve

Pit 3-4 Area, ST 43/55 Pumphouse III Area, Site ST 61, and Site ST 71

The Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (AFCEE) one-year bioventing test and evaluation projects at Elmendorf AFB have been completed. Attached are site maps (Figure 1) and two tables (Table 1 and Table 2) for each of the four sites listed above. Figure 1 provides general site information and Table 1 provides a summary of initial, six-month and one-year fuel respiration and degradation rates measured at various monitoring points at each site. Table 2 provides a summary of initial and final soil and soil gas analytical results for total recoverable petroleum hydrocarbons (TRPH) and benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, and xylenes (BTEX) at each site. Based on the results from your sites and 121 sites throughout the Air Force, bioventing is cost-effectively remediating fuel contamination in a reasonable time frame. We recommend that other sites at your facility be evaluated for possible use of this technology. The sites should be evaluated using the criteria in the AFCEE Test Plan and Technical Protocol for a Field Treatability Test for Bioventing, May 1992, including Addendum One, February 1994. These are found in the "Tool Box" recently sent to your base.

The objective of the one-year sampling and evaluation effort was not to collect enough samples for a statistical evaluation, but rather to demonstrate the feasibility of using bioventing to reduce TRPH and BTEX concentrations in fuel contaminated soil and soil gas. The results of soil and soil gas sample analyses and respiration testing were used to evaluate the performance of this technology for each site.

Soil gas samples are similar to composite soil samples in that they are collected over a larger vertical interval than a discrete sample collected at a specific depth. Thus, they provide an indication of changes in soil gas profiles and volatile contaminant concentrations (see Addendum One to Test Plan and Technical Protocol for a Field Treatability Test for Bioventing - Using Soil Gas Surveys to Determine Bioventing



AQ MOI-02-0228

Feasibility and Natural Attenuation Potential, February 1994). Soil samples, on the other hand, are discrete point samples subject to large variabilities over small distances and/or soil types. Because of the wide variations inherent in the soil sample collection and analysis process, the analytical results from soil samples alone should not be viewed as conclusive indicators of bioventing progress or evidence of the success or failure of this technology. This point is well illustrated at the Elmendorf sites in that the TPH and BTEX concentrations in the soil gas samples decreased while the concentrations in many of the soil samples increased during the period of the study. For this reason, in situ respiration tests and associated soil gas sampling and analysis are considered better indicators of hydrocarbon remediation than limited soil sampling.

The following paragraphs provide site specific information on the analytical results from samples collected at the bioventing sites at Elmendorf AFB.

ST 43/55 Valve Pit 3-4 Area (Atch 1)

Comparison of initial and one year degradation rate data indicate that, at two of the locations, the one-year biodegradation rates are noticeably less than the original. The degradation rates at the third location, MPB-16.5, were higher than the initial rate. Review of the soil gas analyses indicate that the one-year TVH values for this location are still high, which would explain the consistent degradation rate. No comparisons could be made on the six-month respiration and degradation rates because no initial or one-year data were available for the points for which there was six-month data (Table 1).

A comparison of the initial and one-year soil gas analytical results for both points measured show a significant decrease with time in the concentrations of TVH and BTEX. These measurements indicate that fuel biodegradation is progressing at a significant pace. Initial concentrations of TPH and BTEX in the soils were very close to the detection limits, so the one-year soil results, understandably, did not reveal any significant change (Table 2).

ST 43/55 Pumphouse III (Atch 2)

Degradation rates at all three points measured showed a significant decrease between the initial and one-year sampling events, indicating a decrease in the amounts of fuel available for degradation. However, after one year, biodegradation rates were still significant (490 to 1800 mg/kg/yr) (Table 1).

Comparison of the initial and final soil gas analytical results indicated a decrease in TVH and BTEX concentrations at all locations sampled. These measurements indicate that

fuel biodegradation is progressing at a significant rate, both in the area adjacent to the vent well, and in the areas between the vent well and the monitoring points. Soil analytical results for this site are inconclusive. The TPH and BTEX concentrations in the soils at the vent well showed a significant decrease, but the soil concentrations at MPA-20 and MPB-17.5 showed a general increase (Table 2).

Site ST-61 (Atch 3)

Biodegradation rates at the vent well and one of the monitoring points decreased over the one year course of the study. Degradation rate increased at one of the monitoring points, MPA-4. Review of the initial and final soil gas analyses from this location reveal that the TVH levels are still relatively high at this location and, more significantly, that soil temperatures increased during this time period, possibly explaining the increase in degradation rate (Table 1).

TVH and BTEX concentrations in soil gas at the two points measured decreased significantly between the initial and the one-year sampling events, indicating that fuel biodegradation is progressing at a significant rate. The TPH concentrations in the soil increased at all three points measured, illustrating the point discussed previously that soil concentrations can be widely variable over small intervals and/or soil types. BTEX concentrations in the soils were insignificant both before and after bioventing; therefore, the soil BTEX data were inconclusive (Table 2).

Site ST-71 (Atch 4)

A comparison of initial and final degradation rates could only be made for two of the monitoring points. The degradation rates essentially remained unchanged at both points, indicating that there is fuel remaining in the subsurface in portions of the site. After one year, the degradation rates at this site indicate continuing biodegradation of hydrocarbons (Table 1).

TVH and BTEX concentrations in soil gas at the two points measured decreased significantly between the initial and the one-year sampling events, indicating that fuel biodegradation is progressing at a significant rate. Initial concentrations of TPH and BTEX in the soils were relatively low, so although the concentrations decreased at two of the locations and increased at one of the locations, the soil results were inconclusive (Table 2).

Based on the positive results of this evaluation, AFCEE recommends that the bioventing pilot system at each site continue to operate while planning for either closure sampling or continued monitoring. Funds are available for closure sampling at Site ST 61. However, based on the one-year results of the bioventing study and the Alaska soil clean-up regulations, AFCEE recommends that Site ST 71 be substituted for ST 61 for

closure sampling. The reason behind this recommendation is that the soil hydrocarbon levels at ST 71 are below Alaska clean-up levels and those at ST 61 are still above. Based on a comparison of the Alaska soil clean-up levels and the one-year soil hydrocarbons concentrations, continued monitoring is recommended at Sites ST-61 and ST 43/55 Valve Pit 3-4. Expansion to a full-scale system is recommended at Site ST-43/55 Pumphouse 3 due to the high hydrocarbon concentrations remaining in the soil. Continued monitoring and/or expansion to a full-scale bioventing system for any of these sites can be contracted through AFCEE. Please contact 2Lt Maryann Jenner, AFCEE/ERT, DSN 240-4364, COM 210-536-4364, to discuss technical and contractual options for full-scale expansion.

Data from your base and many others indicate that BTEX compounds are preferentially biodegraded over TRPH. Since BTEX compounds represent the most toxic and mobile fuel constituents, a BTEX standard is a risk-based standard. We strongly encourage its use over an arbitrary TPH standard. Within the AFCEE Risk-based Petroleum Hydrocarbon "Tool Box," the report entitled "Using Risk-based Standards will Shorten Cleanup Time at Petroleum Contaminated Sites" summarizes the BTEX/TPH issue and will assist you in negotiating for a BTEX cleanup standard.

In general, quantitative destruction of BTEX can be accomplished through bioventing. The time frame for this destruction to occur is based on a variety of factors such as initial contaminant concentrations, site lithology, and depth to groundwater. Soil gas surveys and respiration tests can be used as BTEX destruction indicators. If a non-risk-based/TRPH cleanup is chosen, the pilot and full-scale systems should be operated until respiration rates approach background rates. We recommend that confirmatory soil sampling be conducted four to six months after background respiration rates are approached.

Due to the streamlined nature of this evaluation project, the interim results report and this letter will be the only project documentation provided to the base. The interim results report contains site diagrams and analytical results from initial soil and soil gas samples. Attachments to this letter provide the analytical results for the final soil and soil gas samples and this letter provides a summary of the collected data and recommendations for follow-on activities. AFCEE is no longer responsible for the operation, maintenance, or monitoring of the bioventing sites. We have initiated a contract to extend monitoring at some sites beyond the initial one-year test. Monitoring will include soil gas and respiration tests to document hydrocarbon degradation, but also may include the collection of sufficient final soil samples to statistically demonstrate site cleanup. If you are interested, please call us.

The blowers and accessories are now base property and should continue to be used on this or other bioventing sites. Although the current equipment is explosion-proof, under no circumstances should it be used for soil vapor extraction unless

appropriate explosion-proof wiring is provided. If the base does not want to keep the blowers or if you have further questions, please contact us.

On behalf of the AFCEE/ERT staff, I would like to thank you for your support of these bioventing test and evaluation projects. The information gained from each site will be invaluable in evaluating this technology and will promote its successful application on other DOD, government, and private sites. I have attached a customer satisfaction survey. Please take a few minutes to fill it out and tell us how we did. We look forward to hearing from you.

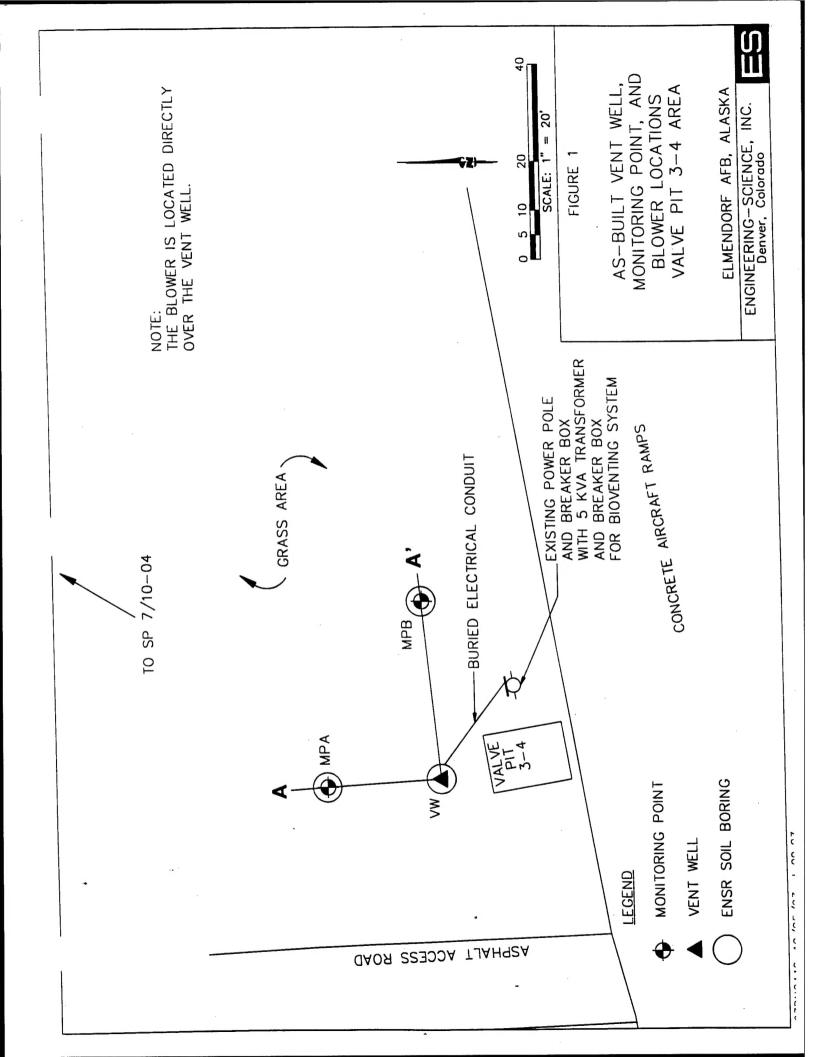
ROSS N. MILLER, Lt Col, USAF, BSC Chief, Technology Transfer Division

Attachments:

- 1. Valve Pit 3-4 Data
- 2. Pumphouse III Data
- 3. Site ST61 Data
- 4. Site ST71 Data
- 5. Survey

cc: HQ PACAF/CEVR AFCEE/ERD (Mr. McGhee)

Engineering Science



ST43/55 VALVE PIT 3-4 AREA RESPIRATION AND DEGRADATION RATES ELMENDORF AFB, ALASKA TABLE 1

Soil Temperature	,	CK	7.3	N N N S
1-Year cgradation Rate	4	430	SN N	420
K _o (% O ₂ /min)		0.0016	NS NS	0.0013
Soil Temperature		NS	3.9	NS NS
-Month ^{b/} egradation Rate	g/kg/year)	NS	30 NS	NS NS
K _o (% O ₂ /min)		NS	0.00011 NS	NS _{d/}
Soil	(°C)	NS^{c_j}	3.6	NS SN
Initial Degradation Rate	mg/kg/year) ^{a/}	1,430	NS NS	1,800
K _o (%, O./min)		0.0051	SN SN SN	0.0063
	Location-Depth	MA	MPA-12.5 MPA-16.5	MPB-12.5 MPB-16.5

^{a/}Milligrams hydrocarbons per kilogram soil per year.
^{b/}Assumes moisture content of the soil is the average of initial and final moistures.
^{c/} Not Sampled.
^{d/} MPB had been buried under soil stockpile.

INITIAL AND 1-YEAR SOIL AND SOIL GAS ANALYTICAL RESULTS SITE ST43/55 Valve Pit 3-4 Area ELMENDORF AFB, ALASKA ABLE 2

Sample Locations—Depth	(feet below ground surface)	VW MILD-I	Initial by 1-Year cl Initial 1-Year w	3100 0.43 24000 5400	0.004	0.015	0.003	21 0.014 34 66.5	MPB-12.5	-Year ^{ti} Initial		<6 <4.2 <6 16 <6	,	< 5.3	0.0073 <0.0073	0.0042	~0.0005 0.012	0.037		5.3 6.3 5.9 4.1 5.7
Analyte (Units) "			Soil Gas Hydrocarbons		TVH (ppmv)	Benzene (ppmv)	Toluene (ppmv)	Ethylbenzene (ppmv) Xylenes (ppmv)		Soil Hudrocarbons	Soll Hydrodan		Diesel Range (nig/kg)	Gasoline Range (mg/kg)	TRPH (mg/kg)	Benzene (mg/kg)	Toluene (mg/kg)	Ethylbenzene (mg/kg)	Xylenes (mg/kg)	

a/ TVH=total volatile hydrocarbons: ppmv = parts per million, volume per volume;

TRPH = total recoverable petroleum hydrocarbons; mg/kg = milligrams per kilogram.

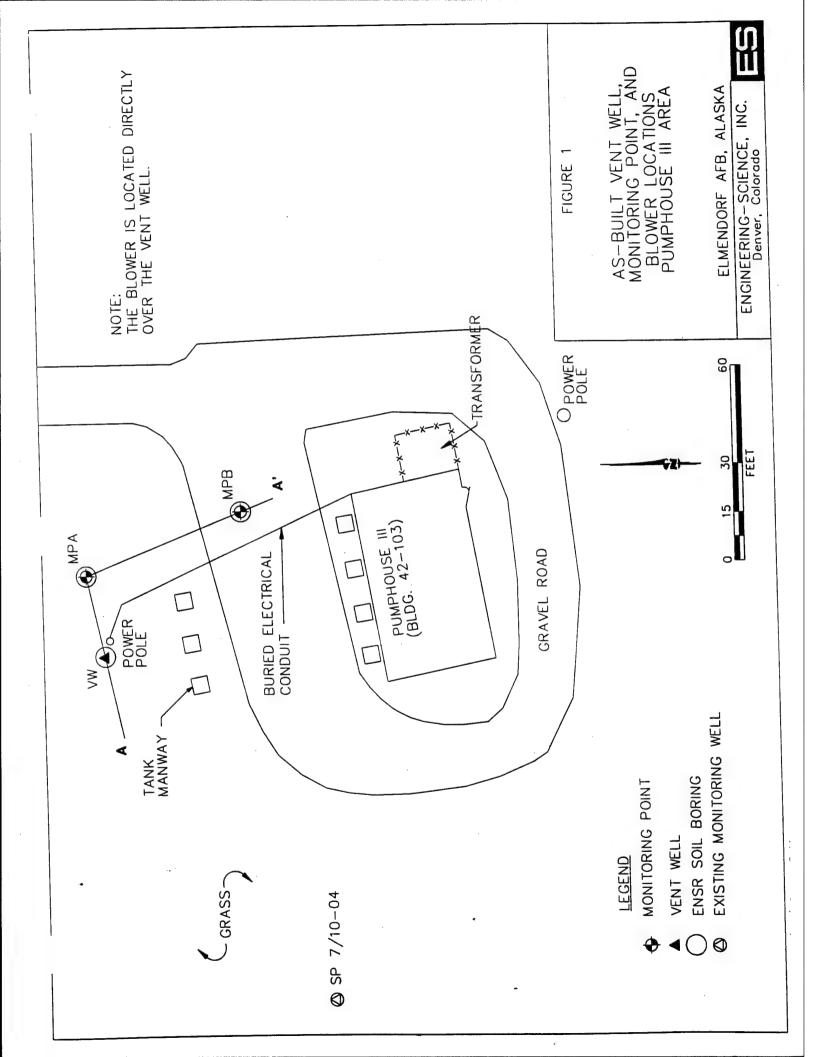
[⊌] Intitial soil gas samples collected on June 24, 1993

d Final soil gas samples collected on August 2-3, 1994

d Average of duplicate samples.

[&]quot;Intitial soil samples collected on June 21-22, 1993

 $^{^{\}prime\prime}$ Final soil samples collected on August 9, 1994



RESPIRATION AND DEGRADATION RATES ELMENDORF AFB, ALASKA ST43/55 PUMPHOUSE III TABLE 1

ar	ion Soil	Temperature		490 NS	SN 005		0.6
1-Ye	Degradat	n) Rate (mg/kg/yc		17	15		
	K	(% O ₂ /min		\$ 0.0017	\$ 0.0045		5 0.0096
	Soil	Temperature (% O ₂ /min) Rate Temper		SN	SZ		6.5
6-Month ^b /	Degradation	Rate	(mg/kg/ycar)	SN	081	001	400
	7.7	(% O ₂ /min)		NS	0	0.0013	0.0017
		remperature (% O ₂ /min) Rate Tempe	(_{OC})	NSc		SZ	3.6
	Initial	Degradation Rate	(mg/kg/year) ^{a/}	1,700		1,100	3,100
		K _o (% O ₂ /min)		0.0078		9900'0	0.011
			Location - Depth	MA	*	MPA-19	MPB-19

^{a/} Milligrams hydrocarbons per kilogram soil per year b/ Assumes moisture content of the soil is the average of initial and 1-year moistures. c/ Not Sampled.

INITIAL AND 1-YEAR SOIL AND SOIL GAS ANALYTICAL RESULTS SITE ST43/55 PUMPHOUSE III ELMENDORF AFB, ALASKA ABLE 2

Sample Locations – Depth	(feet below ground surface)		MA	Initial bet 1-Year Initial 1-Year Initial	14,000 5.8 28,000 1,900 17,000 420 1,900
		Analyte (Units) 1/		Soil Gas Hydrocarbons	TVH (ppmv) Benzene (ppmv) Toluene (ppmv) Ethylbenzene (ppmv) Xylenes (ppmv) Xylenes (ppmv) Diesel Range (mg/kg) Gasoline Range (mg/kg) TRPH (mg/kg) Benzene (mg/kg) Toluene (mg/kg) Ethylbenzene (mg/kg)

a/TVH=total volatile hydrocarbons: ppmv = parts per million, volume per volume; TRPH = total recoverable petroleum hydrocarbons; mg/kg = milligrams per kilogram.

^b Intitial soil gas samples collected on July 12, 1993

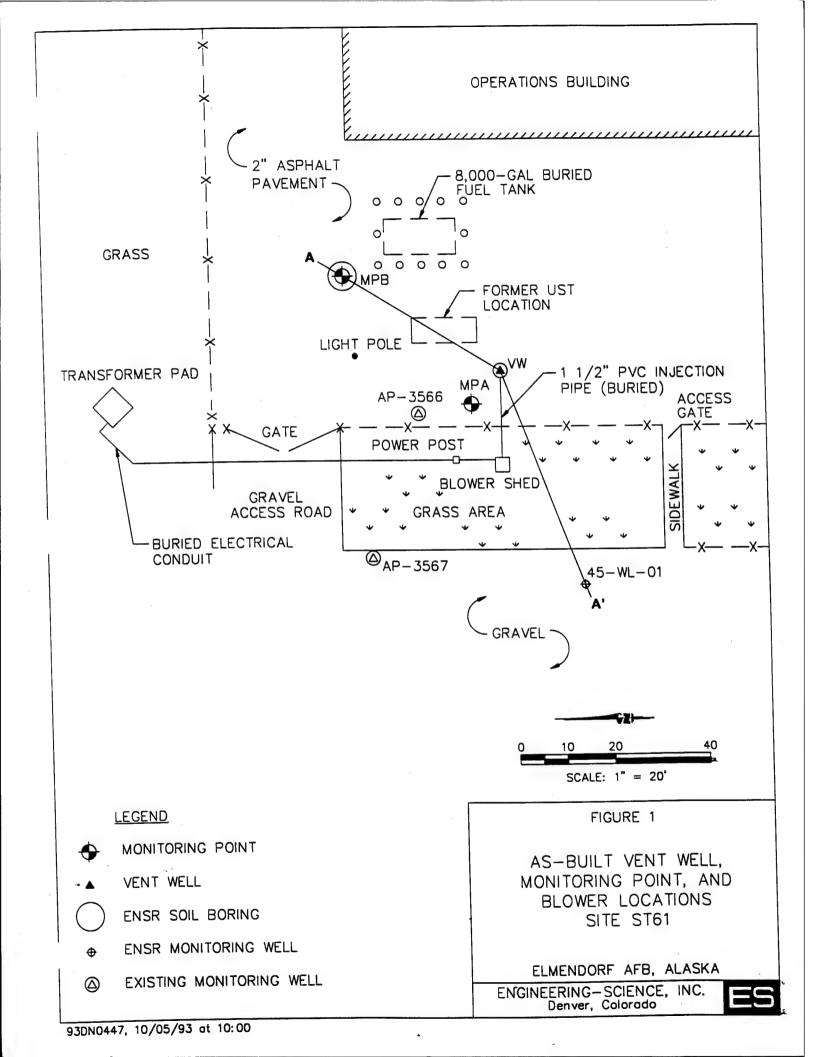
e' Average of duplicate samples.

^d Final soil gas samples collected on August 2, 1994

o'Intitial soil samples collected on July 2-6, 1993

¹ Final soil samples collected on August 9, 1994

[&]quot;Hydrocarbons did not match profile of laboratory standard.



RESPIRATION AND DEGRADATION RATES ELMENDORF AFB, ALASKA TABLE 1

	Soil	Temperature	(°C)	,	S.	16.4	8.6	SN	Z.
1-Year	Degradation	Rate	ıg/kg/year)		130	089	SS	096	SZ.
	1	No (of O /min)	(//o O ₂ /mm)		0.00063	0.017	NS	0.0043	NS
		Soil K_o Do Temperature (% O_2/m in) (m			NS	0.7	5.3	SN	SN
6-Monthb/	O INTOINE	Degradation Rate (mg/kg/year)		1	NS	240	NS	NS	06
	-		(% O ₂ /min)		NS	0.0020	NS	SZ	0.00040
		Soil	Temperature	(7-)	NS_{c_i}	13.6	4.8	SN	NS
	Initial	Degradation	Rate	mg/kg/year)"	770	OC.	NS NS	0000	NS
		X	(% O ₂ /min)		0.0033		0.0010 SN		0.014 NS
				Location-Depth	MA		MPA-4 MPA-13		AP-3566 AP-3567

^{a/} Milligrams hydrocarbons per kilogram soil per year.
^{b/} Assumes moisture content of the soil is the average of initial and final moistures.
^{c/} Not Sampled.

ABLE 2 ST61

INITIAL AND 1-YEAR SOIL AND SOIL GAS ANALYTICAL RESULTS ELMENDORF AFB, ALASKA

		Analyte (Units)"	Soil Gas Hydrocarbons	TVH (ppmv) Benzene (ppmv) Toluene (ppmv) Ethylbenzene (ppmv) Xylenes (ppmv) Soil Hydrocarbons Diesel Range (mg/kg) Gasoline Range (mg/kg) TRPH (mg/kg) Benzene (mg/kg) Toluene (mg/kg) Ethylbenzene (mg/kg)	Moisture (%)	
			LI LI	VW-15 Initial ^{dv} 1-1 270 34 260 <0.05 <0.05 0.12 7.8		
Sample Locations—Depth (feet below ground surface)	,	VW MPA-	1	Initial ^{b/}	1200 0.054 0.41 0.32 1.0 1.0 490 94 748 <0.069 <0.069 0.44	
	feet below grou		1-Year	3.4 <0.002 0.008 0.019 MPA-5 Initial " 62 1445 <0.05 0.47 0.60		
	ind surface)		MPA-	MPA-4	Initial	890 0.052 0.22 0.48 1.1 1 - Year 5680 6420 6420 6420 60.054 1.8
		4	1-Year	400 <0.010 0.44 1.9 2.5 2.5 MPB-12.5 Initial		
				12.5 1-Year <4.3 <0.11 8.2 <0.0005 <0.0005 <0.0007		

at TVH=total volatile hydrocarbons: ppmv=parts per million, volume per volume;

TRPH = total recoverable petroleum hydrocarbons:mg/kg = milligrams per kilogram.

^b/ Initial soil-gas samples collected on July 2, 1993.

e Final soil gas samples collected on August 1, 1994.

dInitial soil samples collected on June 30-July 1, 1993.

[&]quot;Final soil samples collected on August 10, 1994.

[&]quot;Average of duplicate samples.

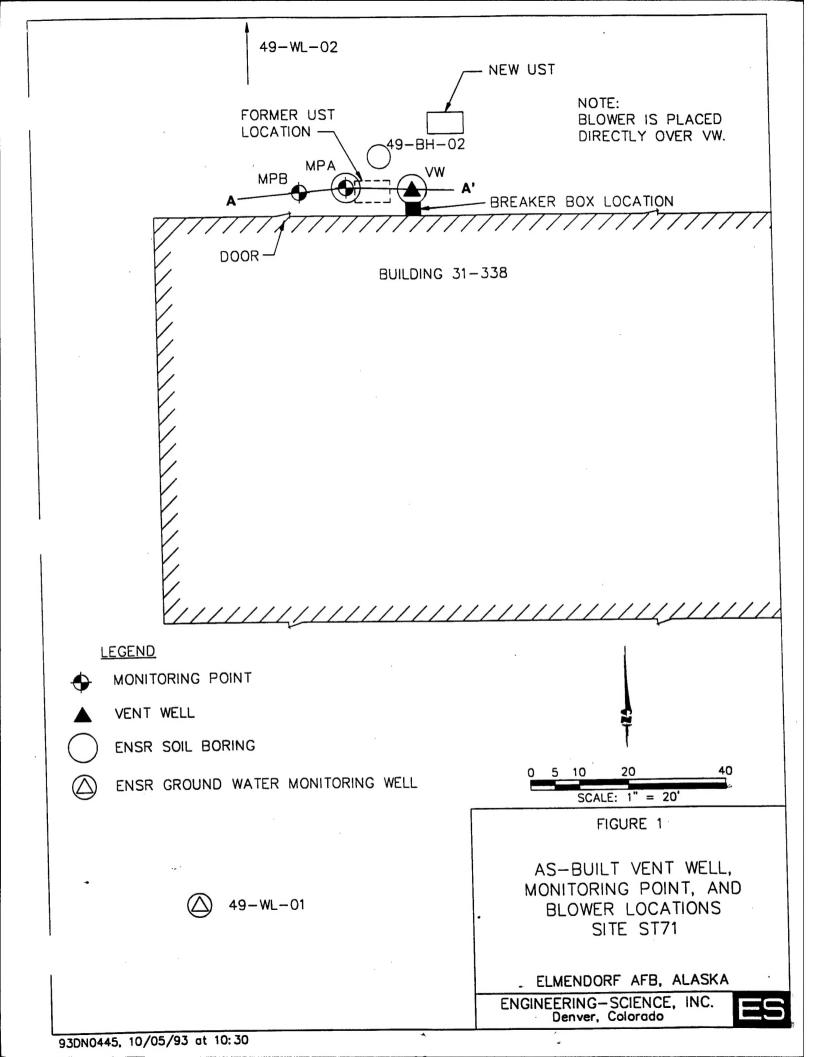


TABLE 1 **ST71**

RESPIRATION AND DEGRADATION RATES ELMENDORF AFB, ALASKA

	Soil	Temperature	(%)	S.N.		13.2	10.1	NS	SN
1-Year	Degradation	Degradation Rate (mg/kg/year)		JIV	NS		NS NS		420
	1	No (% O ₂ /min)	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	,	S	NS	NS	0.00049	0.0015
	:	Soil	(C)		SN	2.2	4.4	SZ	SZ
6 Monthb	0-IMIOIIIII			10 B	SN	SN.	SN	SIN	70
					SN	9	S S	ç	0.00025
		Soil	Temperature		NS_{c_i}	,	10.1		NS NS
	Initial	Degradation	Rate	(mg/kg/year)"	120		30 NS		100 840
		K _o (% O ₂ /min)			0.00035		0.000086	CZI	0.00032
				Location-Depth	101	*	MPA-4	MPA-10	MPB-4 MPB-10

Milligrams hydrocarbons per kilogram soil per year.
 Assumes moisture content of the soil is the average of initial and final moistures.
 Not Sampled.

INITIAL AND 1-YEAR SOIL AND SOIL GAS ANALYTICAL RESULTS ELMENDORF AFB, ALASKA TABLE 2 **ST71**

				1-Year	
Sample Locations – Depth		MPB-10	1-Year	5.4 <0.002 0.0053 0.058 0.058 Initial APB-4 120 <0.07 33 <0.0004 <0.0004 <0.0004 <0.0004	
	und surface)		Initial	290 <0.012 0.12 0.13 -10 -10 -4.2 <4.2 <0.0005 <0.0005 <0.0005 <0.0005	
	(feet below grou	-4	1-Year	1.0 <0.002 0.003 <0.002 0.008 0.008 Initial 140 0.12 52 <0.0004 <0.0004 <0.0008	
		MPA-4	Initial ^{b/}	480 <0.049 <0.049 0.32 2.1 2.1 10 <4.2 1.8 <5.2 <0.0005 0.0009 4.2	
				VW-10 Initial ^d <6 <0.073 12 <0.0004 <0.0004 <0.0008 4.5	
	70 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7	Analyte (Units)"	Soil Gas Hydrocarbons	TVH (ppmv) Benzene (ppmv) Toluene (ppmv) Ethylbenzene (ppmv) Xylenes (ppmv) Soil Hydrocarbons Diesel Range (mg/kg) Gasoline Range (mg/kg) TRPH (mg/kg) Benzene (mg/kg) Toluene (mg/kg) Ethylbenzene (mg/kg)	Moisture (%)

a/ TVH=total volatile hydrocarbons: ppmv=parts per million, volume per volume; TRPH = total recoberable petroleum hydrocarbons:mg/kg = milligrams per kilogram.

^b Initial soil gas samples collected on June 18, 1993. ^c Final soil gas samples collected on August 1, 1994.

^d/Initial soil samples collected on June 16, 1993.

[&]quot;Final soil samples collected on August 8, 1994.